

Learn
BRIGHT

SACAGAWEA



GRADE 3-5

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Classroom Procedure:

1. Introduce the lesson by asking students how many have heard of Sacagawea. On an anchor chart, write some of the responses of the students. (Many students will confuse Sacagawea with other historically significant Native American females.) Post the anchor chart to be used later in the lesson.
2. Distribute the *Sacagawea* content pages. Read the material with students or have students read in small groups. The Lexile rating for the passage is 1010 or approximately 4th to 5th-grade comprehension level. When students have completed the reading, return back to the anchor chart. Ask students to correct any misconceptions or the responses on the anchor chart based on the content pages. Use the Additional Teacher Resources to supplement the content pages.
3. Distribute the Activity Page and assist students with answering the questions. Have the students highlight the sentence where they find the answers. By having students highlight the answers on the content pages, they are learning how to find information and are re-reading the material; a terrific reading comprehension skill!
4. Distribute the Practice Page and read the directions. Explain to students the material is the *primary source material* from the journal of an observer of this meeting. Explain to students primary source material is firsthand or observed knowledge of an event. Have students write a paragraph and have the students highlight the information in the passage that is the source for their answer.
5. Distribute the Homework Page. The Homework Page is a map skills page. You may want to require students to locate and label specific points on the map (Sacagawea's birthplace, the Pacific Ocean, Washington, DC, etc.).
6. In closing, ask students: What did you learn new about Sacagawea that you didn't already know? How was Sacagawea important to the expedition of Lewis and Clark? What is a biography, and why is learning about the lives of different people necessary? Can what we learn about the life of someone else apply to current situations?

Lesson Title: **Sacagawea**

Subject: Reading, Language Arts, & Social Studies

Approximate Grade Level: 3 - 5

Objectives: Students will explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals in a historical context. Students will use several sources to build knowledge of different aspects of a topic. Students will explain the interactions between people in history and their perspectives at the time.

State Educational Standards*

LB.ELA.LITERACY.RI.5.3, LB.ELA.

LITERACY.W.5.(7 – 9), NCSS.D2.HIS.5.3 – 5

Class Sessions (45 minutes):

3 Class Sessions.

Teaching Materials/Worksheets:

Content Pages (2), Activity Page (1), Practice Pages (2), Homework Pages (2)

Student Supplies: Pencils, pens, highlighters, internet access for research

Prepare Ahead of Time: Copies of worksheets

Options for Lesson: Several interactive games on the internet follow the exploits of Sacagawea, Lewis, and Clark. Provide students with historical information about their expedition. Then as an introduction or as an enrichment exercise, allow students to play one of the following interactive games.

Lewis and Clark (Scholastic) http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/lewis_clark/index.htm

Time Zone B: (BrainPop) <https://www.brainpop.com/games/timezonexlewisandclark/>

*Lessons are aligned to meet the education objectives and goals of most states. For more information on your state objectives, contact your local Board of Education or Department of Education in your state.

Sacagawea

Section

1

Title:
Sacagawea

Born:

May 1788, Lemhi County, ID

Died:

December 20, 1812, Kenel, South Dakota

Spouse:

Toussaint Charbonneau (m. 1804–1812)

Buried:

Sacajawea Cemetery, Fort Washakie, WY

Children:

Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, Lizette Charbonneau



Statue of Sacagawea.

Located in front of the North Dakota State Capitol. Bismark, North Dakota

No one knows for sure what Sacawagea looks like, as photography would not be invented until 1826. Several artists have tried to capture her likeness on everything from coins to the statue in front of the state capitol building in North Dakota. There are also several other monuments and historical markers commemorating her remarkable life. Sacawagea's adventures and the story of her life is one of the most fascinating historical biographies in American history.



Born sometime in 1788, Sacawagea was the daughter of a Shoshone chief. Her early life began in what is now called Lemhi County, Idaho. Recall in 1788, only eleven states comprised the entire United States. All of the states were east of the Mississippi River and located on the east coast! Only twelve years had passed since the American colonies declared independence from Great Britain to form a new country. Everything west of the Mississippi was yet to be explored and mapped.

Not much is known about Sacawagea's life as a young child. Historians believe some time near her twelfth birthday, Sacawagea was captured by an enemy tribe of the Shoshone, the Hidatsa Indian tribe. She was later traded or sold to a French-Canadian fur trapper named Toussaint Charbonneau. Fur trapping was a profitable business during the late 1800s, and French trappers were renown for their ability to trade in high-quality furs. French trappers were also known for having good relationships with native tribes. Later Sacagawea would marry Charbonneau.

Sacagawea



Charbonneau would take Sacagawea back to live with him in an area inhabited by the Hidatsa and Mandan Indian tribes. These tribes lived in the area nearby what is now called the Missouri River and what is present-day the state of North Dakota.

In 1804, the exploration team of Lewis and Clark met Charbonneau on the way to exploring the western American territories. Lewis and Clark were commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the land and find a path to the Pacific Ocean. Immediately upon meeting Sacagawea and Charbonneau, Lewis and Clark hired Sacagawea as an interpreter and Charbonneau as an experienced trapper to assist in guiding the expedition. Sacagawea's knowledge of the Shoshone would prove invaluable in the course of the trip.

Sacagawea had several other skills other than a knowledge of the Shoshone. She was skilled at identifying edible plants as a food source for the long journey. Sacagawea was skilled in navigating the boats. In one instance, when a boat capsized, Sacagawea saved the valuable maps and logs from being lost in the river. She was also invaluable as a sign of goodwill to the tribes the expedition encountered along the way. Tribes were unlikely to trust an all-male expedition, but Sacagawea (who was traveling with her newborn son) drew far less suspicion. In an interesting historical twist of fate, Sacagawea found her long lost brother, Cameahwait! She had not seen him since being taken captive by the Hidatsa tribe when she was a young girl.



After several months and an arduous journey, and thanks to the help of Sacagawea, the Lewis and Clark expedition reached the Pacific Ocean in November of 1805. Sacagawea would return with the expedition east until they reached the Mandan villages. Lewis and Clark would continue their journey to Washington, DC, where they reported their findings to Thomas Jefferson in 1806.

The rest of the life of Sacagawea is murky. Historians believe she traveled to visit with Clark in St. Louis in 1809, leaving her son to be cared for by him. In 1812, Sacagawea gave birth to a daughter. A few short months later, she died at Fort Manuel in what is now Kenel, South Dakota. After her death, Clark took charge of both her children and provided a home for them. Sacagawea is one of the most significant persons in American history in settling the western frontier.



Instructions: Read and answer the reading comprehension questions.

1. When did Sacagawea meet Charbonneau? _____

2. How did Sacagawea meet Charbonneau? _____

3. What did Chabonneau do for a living? _____

4. When do Lewis and Clark meet Sacagawea? _____

5. In what ways was Sacagawea invaluable on the trip? _____

6. The author writes, “After her (Sacagawea) death, Clark took charge of both her children and provided a home for them.” What kind of relationship between Clark and Sacagawea is inferred by this statement? _____

7. Sacagawea’s name translates into the words “bird woman” or “boat puller.” Does the name fit her portrayal in history? Explain your answer. _____



Practice

Name _____ Date _____



Instructions: The passage is from one of the journals of Lewis and Clark. Explain what you think the passage is describing.

“On setting out at seven o’clock, captain Clarke with Charboneau and his wife walked on shore, but they had not gone more than a mile before Clarke saw Sacajawea, who was with her husband 100 yards ahead, began to dance and show every mark of the most extravagant joy, turning around him and pointing to several Indians, whom he now saw advancing on horseback, sucking her fingers at the same time to indicate that they were of her native tribe. We soon drew near to the camp, and just as we approached it, a woman made her way through the crowd towards Sacajawea, and recognizing each other, they embraced with the most tender affection. The meeting of these two young women had in it something peculiarly touching, not only in the ardent manner in which their feelings were expressed but from the real interest of their situation. Clark and Lewis soon after met with the chief. After this, the conference was to be opened, and glad of an opportunity of being able to converse more intelligibly, Sacajawea was sent for; she came into the tent, sat down, and was beginning to interpret when in the person of Cameahwait she recognized her brother: She instantly jumped up, and ran and embraced him, throwing over him her blanket and weeping profusely: The chief was himself moved, though not in the same degree. After some conversation between them, she resumed her seat. She attempted to interpret for us, but her new situation seemed to overpower her, and she was frequently interrupted by her tears.” (Biddle, August 17, 1805)



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The journal entry is by an observer of one of several meetings between the Lewis and Clark expedition and Indian tribes. In the journal, we read Sacagawea is surprised when she learns about one of the tribal leaders in the meeting is her brother. She and Cameahwait were separated when the Hidatsa tribe, an enemy of the Shoshone, took Sacagawea captive. The meeting is emotional as indicated by “She instantly jumped up, and ran and embraced him, throwing over him her blanket and weeping profusely: The chief was himself moved, though not in the same degree. After some conversation between them, she resumed her seat. She attempted to interpret for us, but her new situation seemed to overpower her, and she was frequently interrupted by her tears.” The passage demonstrates the trust and respect for Sacagawea other tribes had for her as she is attending a meeting with council elders.



Homework

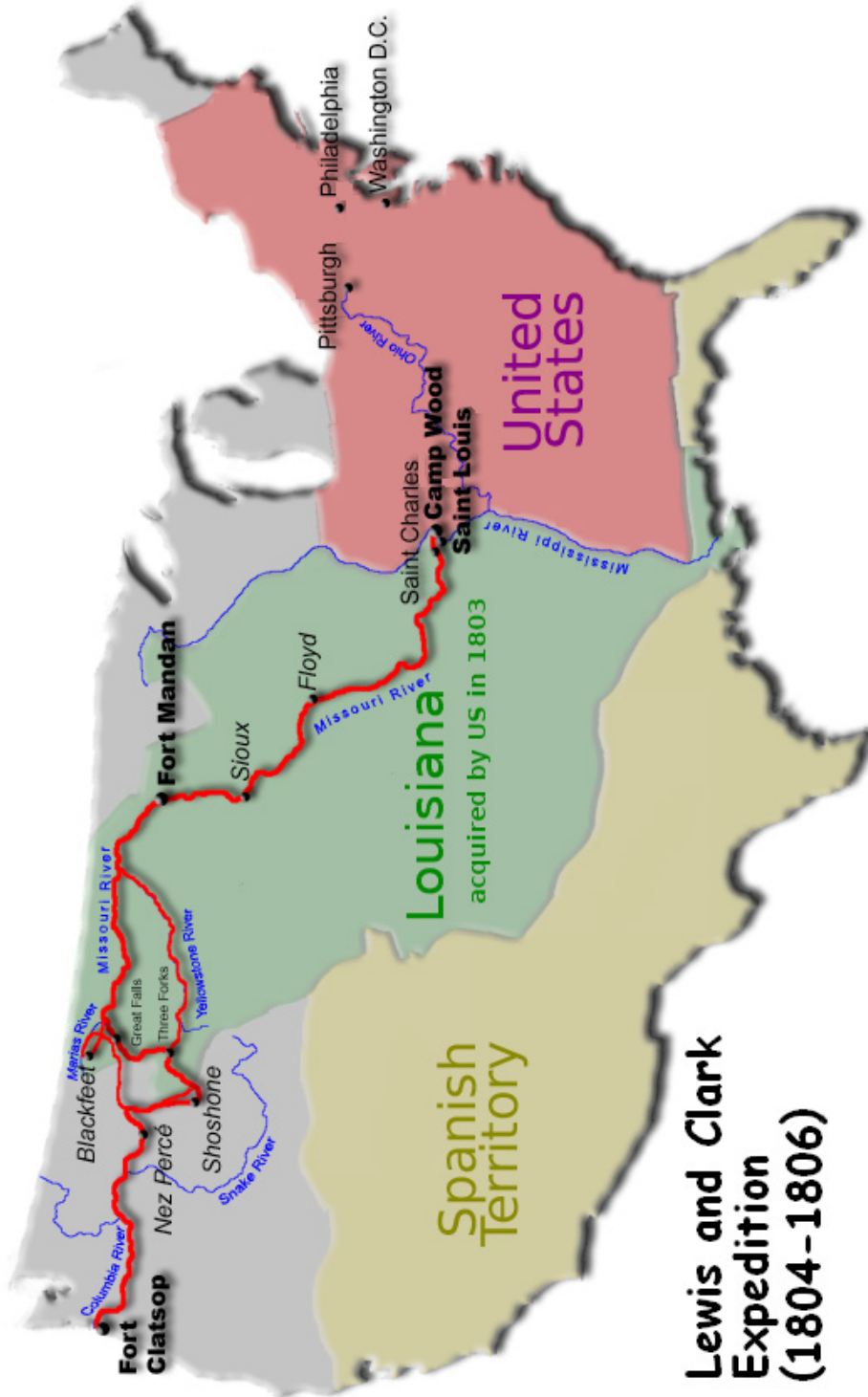
Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: On the map of the United States, trace the journey of Sacagawea, Lewis, and Clark. Use the interactive map at <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/online-exhibitions/lewis-and-clark-expedition-interactive-map> or other sources to complete the drawing. Label places you read about in the Sacagawea biography.





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Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)